

SS FORM  
NO. 32

ROUTE SLIP

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE SECRET  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE 2/10/61

TO: Dr. Wiesner

FROM: David E. Bell *DEB*

REMARKS:

Returned with appreciation.

RELEASED

*September 99*

(2)

NND 931011-140

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 4, 1961

MR. BELL

For information and  
return to Dr. Wiesner.

931011-141

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Wiesner

Attached paper on Sov  
Uranium position prepared  
by Pete Scoville is forwarded  
to pursuant to your discussion  
yesterday with Mr. Oeller.

(Unwary Jr.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

931011-142

~~110186~~

~~SECRET~~

2 February 1961

STATUS OF SOVIET URANIUM ORE  
PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT

Intelligence clearly indicates that the Soviet Union has established a large uranium ore production base within the Bloc. In addition to widespread production in the USSR, major quantities of ore are procured from nearly all of the European satellites. The Soviet Union is currently producing about 17,000 tons of recoverable uranium metal per year, with over one-half coming from the European satellites and almost one-third coming from East Germany alone.

Estimated Soviet ore production is summarized on the attached sheet. We accord a high degree of reliability to this estimate.

We believe that this quantity of ore is significantly greater than that required to support the Soviet fissionable material production program on a day-to-day basis, and estimate that they have accumulated a significant stockpile which is equivalent to their future needs for several years.

Communist China is developing a sizable native uranium ore production effort and probably will have no requirement for foreign procurement.

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We do not foresee any strong technical or economic motivation for the Soviets to procure uranium ore outside the Soviet Bloc. However, for political reasons, they could in time offer to procure small quantities from less developed countries such as Argentina, Peru, Mexico or Afganistan. It should be noted that if the U. S. discontinues foreign uranium ore procurement, this will facilitate the accessibility of this ore to potential "Nth" countries; but such U. S. procurement is not in itself an effective denial measure.

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ESTIMATED  
**SOVIET BLOC URANIUM ORE  
PRODUCTION**

(METRIC TONS OF RECOVERABLE URANIUM METAL)

<del>SECRET</del>	1960	1965
USSR	7,800	9,800
EAST GERMANY	5,000	11,500
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1,700	
BULGARIA	1,000	
*(POLAND)	(40)*	
RUMANIA	800	
HUNGARY	400	
*(CHINA)	(500)*	
TOTAL	ANNUAL 16,700	21,300
	SINCE 1946 130,000	230,000

\* PRODUCTION RETAINED BY CHINA OR POLAND (AFTER 1958).  
NOT INCLUDED IN TOTALS.

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